

Archives Branch
Naval History and Heritage Command
805 Kidder Breese Street, SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060

Processor: Elysia Hamelin (September 2019)

Accession Number: RF 16/62

United States Ship Memphis Survivors Association Records

AR/573

Name of Creator: United States Ship (U.S.S.) Memphis Survivors Association

Extent: 14 Boxes [7 Hollinger Boxes, 1 Half-Sized Hollinger Box, 5 Oversized Boxes (OV1),
1 Oversized Box (OV2)]
5.53 Cubic Feet
9.14 Linear Feet

Date Range of Creation: 1916-1997, predominate 1958-1980

Classification Level: Unclassified

Record Formats: administrative reports, audiocassettes, booklets, books, calendars (documents by form), certificates, clippings (information artifacts), correspondence, invitations, minutes (administrative records), newsletters, open reel audiotapes, pamphlets, photographs, postcards, programs (documents), questionnaires, scrapbooks, souvenir programs, videocassettes, writings (documents)

Arrangement

The materials are arranged into the following six series; thereunder by document type in chronological order.

Series I: Administrative Records

Series II: Ceremonies, Dedications, and Memorials

Series III: Publications

Subseries 1: Society Published

Subseries 2: Collected Publications

Series IV: Reunions

Series V: Scrapbooks

Series VI: U.S.S. Memphis Memorabilia
Subseries 1: Photographs and Postcards
Subseries 2: Writings and Pamphlets

The audio materials from Series II: Ceremonies, Dedications, and Memorials are in a separate box for preservation; however, the materials are listed in chronological order in the box list below.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of records that document the U.S.S. Memphis Survivors Association. The majority of the collection is comprised of scrapbooks and audiocassettes that document their reunions, in addition to, the memorials and dedications organized by the association. Also included are association administrative records and memorabilia about the U.S.S. Memphis.

Historical Note

The U.S.S. Memphis was an Armored Cruiser ship originally commissioned on 17 July 1906 as the U.S.S. Tennessee. In 1916, during World War I, a new battleship under construction was slated to be named Tennessee. As a result, on 25 May 1916 the Armored Cruiser was renamed to U.S.S. Memphis. Shortly after its rechristening the U.S.S. Memphis conducted a peacekeeping patrol of the Dominican Republic.

On the 29 August 1916, U.S.S. Memphis was at anchor in the harbor of Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic. Three large waves estimated to be over 70 feet in height struck the ship. The waves washed Sailors overboard and pushed the U.S.S. Memphis onto a nearby rocky beach. Forty-three Sailors lost their lives and over two-hundred were seriously injured. The nearby U.S.S. Castine conducted rescue efforts in addition to the Marines stationed in Santa Domingo.

In the 1950s, survivors of the disaster organized a survivors association initially consisting of U.S.S. Memphis Sailors. The group later expanded to include Sailors from the U.S.S. Castine and Marines stationed in Santa Domingo.

Box and Folder List

SERIES I: ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS

This series contains administrative reports, correspondence, meeting minutes, and questionnaires that document the administrative activities of the association.

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Forty-third anniversary report, 1959	1	1
Association correspondence, 1959-1985	1	2
Captain's reports, 1960	1	3
Financial reports, 1960-1969	1	4
Meeting minutes, 1960-1972	1	5
Resolutions, 1960-1979	1	6
Statement from Les Kidwell to the 1962 Reunion, 1962	1	7
Correspondence to CAPT Edward L. Beach, c. 1964	1	8
Plaque fund, 1964-1965	1	9
Voting ballots, 1966	1	10
Statement from Sam Worth to 1968 Reunion, 1968	1	11
Obituary of Samuel C. Worth, 1969	1	12
Correspondence from Mr. Robert Sullivan, 1969-1970	1	13
Correspondence from Mr. Henry Loeb, 1969-1971	1	14
Correspondence from Mr. James Manire, 1970	1	15
By-Laws, 1970	1	16

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Correspondence and certificate from President Richard Nixon to Mrs. Samuel C. Worth, 1970	1	17
Financial reports, 1970-1983	1	18
Report on the Memphis Perpetual Memorial Ceremony Fund, 1971	1	19
Statement from Alice "Bunny" Worth to 1973 Reunion, 1973	1	20
Amendment to By-Laws, 1976	1	21
Reunion schedule, 1976	1	22
Letter, questionnaire, and biographical information from James M. Rockwell, 1977	1	23
Financial documents, 1981-1991	1	24
Correspondence regarding transferal of funds, 1992	1	25
Examples of "Survivors of U.S. Armored Cruiser Memphis" letterhead, undated	1	26
Mailing envelopes, undated	1	27
Unfinished writings by Mrs. Samuel C. Worth, undated	1	28
U.S.S. Memphis name cards, undated	1	29
Members Questionnaire – A, undated	1	30
Members Questionnaire – B, undated	1	31
Members Questionnaire – C, undated	1	32
Members Questionnaire – D, undated	1	33
Members Questionnaire – E, undated	1	34

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Members Questionnaire – F, undated	1	35
Members Questionnaire – G, undated	1	36
Members Questionnaire – H, undated	1	37
Members Questionnaire – I, undated	1	38
Members Questionnaire – J, undated	1	39
Members Questionnaire – K, undated	1	40
Members Questionnaire – L, undated	1	41
Members Questionnaire – M, undated	2	1
Members Questionnaire – N, undated	2	2
Members Questionnaire – O, undated	2	3
Members Questionnaire – P, undated	2	4
Members Questionnaire – Q, undated	2	5
Members Questionnaire – R, undated	2	6
Members Questionnaire – S, undated	2	7
Members Questionnaire – T, undated	2	8
Members Questionnaire – U, undated	2	9
Members Questionnaire – V, undated	2	10
Members Questionnaire – W, undated	2	11
Members Questionnaire – Y, undated	2	12

SERIES II: CEREMONIES, DEDICATIONS, AND MEMORIALS

This series contains audiocassettes, open reel audiotapes, programs, and videocassettes that document the memorials and dedications organized by the association.

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Dedication of Memorial Plaque program, 1964	2	13
3-inch audio reel: Memphis Memorial Ceremony Service, 1971	9	
7-inch audio reel: Memphis Reunion, 1971 & 1973	9	
4-inch audio reel: Memphis, Tennessee, 1972	9	
3-inch audio reel: Sam Worth Perpetual Memorial Ceremony, 1974	9	
3-inch audio reel: Sam Worth Perpetual Memorial Ceremony, 1976	9	
Sam Worth Perpetual Memorial Ceremony program, 1976	2	14
Audiocassette: Grandpa Nat to Jason, Aunt Bunny, Aunt Edith, Grandma Rose / Grandpa Nat to Jason / Grandpa Nat to Debbie, David, Leon, 1977 & 1991	9	
Audiocassette: Chuck Beckman, Santo Domingo, 1979	9	
Audiocassette: Sam Worth Perpetual Memorial Ceremony, Pink Palace Museum, 1986	9	
Audiocassette: Sam Worth Perpetual Memorial Ceremony, 1987	9	
Audiocassette: Sam Worth Perpetual Memorial Ceremony, 1988	9	
Audiocassette: Sam Worth Perpetual Memorial Ceremony, 1989	9	
Audiocassette: Sam Worth Perpetual Memorial Ceremony, 1990	9	
Videocassette: Dedication Ceremony for U.S.S. Memphis Memorial and Edward L. Beach Training Complex (original), 1991	2	15

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Videocassette: Sam Worth Memorial and Dedication, Captain Edward L. Beach Ceremony (short), 1991	2	16
Videocassette: Sam Worth Memorial and Dedication, Edward L. Beach Building, c. 1991	2	17
Invitation to the 1994 Sam Worth Perpetual Memorial Ceremony, 1994	3	1
Invitation to the 1995 Sam Worth Perpetual Memorial Ceremony, 1995	3	2
Historical Foot Note from 1984 Memorial tape, undated Note: Collection does not contain the 1984 Memorial tape	3	3
Photograph of "Survivors U.S. Armored Cruiser Memphis" flag, undated	3	4
Photograph of U.S. Armored Cruiser Memphis "In Memoriam" plaque, undated	3	5
Photograph of U.S.S. Memphis & U.S.S. Triton memorial plaque, undated	3	6
Photograph of U.S.S. Tennessee memorial plaque, undated	3	7

SERIES III: PUBLICATIONS

SUBSERIES 1: SOCIETY PUBLISHED

This series contains newsletters and calendars published by the association.

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
"Rocks and Shoals" newsletters, Volumes 1-3, 1960-1962	3	8
"Rocks and Shoals" newsletters, Volume 4, 1962-1963	3	9
"Rocks and Shoals" newsletters, Volume 5, 1963-1964	3	10
"Rocks and Shoals" newsletters, Volume 6, 1965-1966	3	11
"Rocks and Shoals" newsletters, Volumes 7-8, 1966-1968	3	12

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
“Rocks and Shoals” newsletters, Volumes 9-11, 1968-1971	3	13
“Rocks and Shoals” newsletters, Volumes 12-13, 1971-1973	3	14
“Rocks and Shoals” newsletters, Volumes 14-16, 1974-1976	4	1
“Rocks and Shoals” newsletters, Volumes 17-20, 1977-1980	4	2
Survivors of U.S. Armored Cruiser Memphis, U.S.S. Castine, and U.S. Marines shipmates’ calendar, 1963	4	3
Survivors of U.S. Armored Cruiser Memphis, U.S.S. Castine, and U.S. Marines shipmates’ calendar, 1964	4	4
Survivors of U.S. Armored Cruiser Memphis, U.S.S. Castine, and U.S. Marines shipmates’ calendar, 1966	4	5
Survivors of U.S. Armored Cruiser Memphis, U.S.S. Castine, and U.S. Marines shipmates’ calendar, 1967	4	6
Survivors of U.S. Armored Cruiser Memphis, U.S.S. Castine, and U.S. Marines shipmates’ calendar, 1968	4	7
Survivors of U.S. Armored Cruiser Memphis, U.S.S. Castine, and U.S. Marines shipmates’ calendar, 1969	4	8
Survivors of U.S. Armored Cruiser Memphis, U.S.S. Castine, and U.S. Marines shipmates’ calendar, 1970	4	9
Survivors of U.S. Armored Cruiser Memphis, U.S.S. Castine, and U.S. Marines shipmates’ calendar, 1971	4	10
Survivors of U.S. Armored Cruiser Memphis, U.S.S. Castine, and U.S. Marines shipmates’ calendar, 1972	4	11
Survivors of U.S. Armored Cruiser Memphis, U.S.S. Castine, and U.S. Marines shipmates’ calendar, 1973	5	1
Survivors of U.S. Armored Cruiser Memphis, U.S.S. Castine, and U.S. Marines shipmates’ calendar, 1975	5	2

SUBSERIES 2: COLLECTED PUBLICATIONS

This series contains published booklets, books, pamphlets, and programs collected by the association about the U.S.S. Memphis.

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
“All Hands” bulletin, 1959-1964	5	3
“The Wreck of the Memphis” radio program transcript, 1960	5	4
Book: The U.S.S. Memphis Disaster by Martin Gaudier, 1965	5	5
“All Hands” bulletin, 1966-1969, 1975	5	6
Booklet: Historic Ship Exhibits in the United States, 1969	5	7
Booklet: Battle Streamers of the United States Navy, 1972	5	8
1975 Congressional Medal of Honor Roster, 1975	5	9
Book: My Romance with the Navy by W. Angus Wiggins, Sr., 1975	5	10
Map: GLAD Guide to the Presidents, c. 1981	5	11
Booklet: Our Early Navy, Part I: 1775-1855, undated	5	12
Booklet: Our Early Navy, Part III: 1913-1945, undated	5	13
“Storm drives Warship 2 miles overland” by Richard W. Rowan, undated	5	14

SERIES IV: REUNIONS

This series contains correspondence and souvenir programs that document the reunions held by the association.

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Statement from Sam Worth to the 1960 reunion, 1960	5	15
Souvenir Program from the Second Reunion of the Survivors of Armored Cruiser Memphis, 1960	5	16
U.S.S. Memphis Memorial Service program, 1961	5	17
Souvenir Program from the Fourth Reunion of the Survivors of Armored Cruiser Memphis, 1962	5	18
Souvenir Program from the Fifth Reunion of the Survivors of Armored Cruiser Memphis, 1963	5	19
Souvenir Program from the Sixth Reunion of the Survivors of Armored Cruiser Memphis, 1964	6	1
Souvenir Program from the Fiftieth Anniversary Annual Reunion of the Survivors of Armored Cruiser Memphis, 1966	6	2
Programs from the Fifty-First Anniversary Annual Reunion of the Survivors of Armored Cruiser Memphis, 1967	6	3
Souvenir Program from the Tenth Reunion of the Survivors of Armored Cruiser Memphis, 1969	6	4
Souvenir Program from the Fifty-Sixth Anniversary National Reunion of the Survivors of Armored Cruiser Memphis, 1972	6	5
Souvenir Program from the Sixtieth Anniversary National Reunion of the Survivors of Armored Cruiser Memphis, 1976	6	6
Correction to Souvenir Program, undated	6	7

SERIES V: SCRAPBOOKS

This series contains scrapbooks consisting of certificates, newspaper clippings, correspondence, invitations, newsletters, photographs, postcards, and programs which document the reunions and other activities of the association.

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Reunion Scrapbook, 1958-1962	10	
Reunion Scrapbook, 1963-1965	11	
Reunion Scrapbook, 1966-1968	12	
Reunion Scrapbook, 1969-1973	13	
Reunion Scrapbook Pages 1-10, 1974-1976	6	8
Reunion Scrapbook Pages 11-17, 1976	6	9
“Modern Merchant” Scrapbook Pages 1-10, undated	6	10
“Modern Merchant” Scrapbook Pages 11-20, undated	6	11
“Modern Merchant” Scrapbook Pages 21-30, undated	6	12
“Modern Merchant” Scrapbook Pages 31-34, undated	6	13
Post Cards & Tidbits Scrapbook Pages 1-10, undated	6	14
Post Cards & Tidbits Scrapbook Pages 11-20, undated	7	1
Post Cards & Tidbits Scrapbook Pages 21-23, undated	7	2
Loose Scrapbook Pages Folder 1, 1960-1995	7	3
Loose Scrapbook Pages Folder 2, 1959-1977	7	4

SERIES VI: MEMORABILIA**SUBSERIES 1: WRITINGS (DOCUMENTS) & PAMPHLETS**

This series contains booklets, certificates, clippings, correspondence, pamphlets, and writings that document the U.S.S. Memphis' various cruises, and the 1916 nautical disaster.

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Correspondence from Sam Worth, c. 1916	7	5
Booklet: The South American Cruise of the U.S.S. Tennessee, 1916	7	6
Rechristening pamphlet, 1916	7	7
U.S.S. Tennessee Domain of Neptunus Rex certificate, 1916	7	8
Certificate of first submerged circum-navigation of the world, 1960	7	9
"Our Memorial Plaque" by L. B. Kidwell, 1965	7	10
"Why They Call A Ship A 'She'" by Unknown Author, 1969	7	11
"Shipmates, Friends, Associates" by Edward L. Beach, 1975	7	12
"Museum Scope" magazine, 1991	14	1
"The Bluejacket" newspaper, 1997	14	2
"Loss of the Memphis" by Robert H. Payden, undated	7	13
"My Recollection of That Day" by Sam Worth, undated	7	14
"An Ode to the House I Live in on my Eighty-Sixth Birthday", undated	7	15
"The Wreck of the Memphis" by Edward L. Beach, undated	7	16

SUBSERIES 2: PHOTOGRAPHS & POSTCARDS

This series contains postcards and photographs that document the U.S.S. Memphis' various cruises, and the 1916 nautical disaster.

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
The Forecastle Log postcards, 1916	7	17
Hotel card, undated	7	18
Ink pen sketch of U.S.S. Castine "Old Cast-Iron", undated	14	3
Ink pen sketch of U.S. Armored Cruiser Memphis, undated	14	4
Photographs of Funeral, undated	7	19
Photographs of People, undated	7	20
Photographs of Places, undated	7	21
Photographs of Reunions, undated	7	22
Photographs of Sailors, undated	7	23
Photographs of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, undated	7	24
Photographs of U.S.S. Memphis, undated	7	25
Photographs of U.S.S. Tennessee, undated	7	26
Postcards of Argentina, undated	7	27
Postcards of Brazil, undated	7	28
Postcards of Canal Zone, undated	7	29
Postcards of Chile, undated	7	30
Postcards of Cuba, undated	7	31
Postcards of Foreign Leaders, undated	7	32

<u>Folder Title, Date Span</u>	<u>Box Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Postcards of Haiti, undated	7	33
Postcards of Identified Sailors, undated	7	34
Postcards of Initiation, undated	7	35
Postcards of International High Commission, undated	7	36
Postcards of King and Queen Neptunus, undated	7	37
Postcards of Marines, undated	7	38
Postcards of the Pan-American Commission, undated	7	39
Postcards of Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic, undated	7	40
Postcards of Ships, undated	7	41
Postcards of the Straits of Magellan, undated	7	42
Postcards of Theodore Roosevelt, undated	8	1
Postcards of Trinidad, undated	8	2
Postcards of Unidentified People, undated	8	3
Postcards of Unidentified Places, undated	8	4
Postcards of Unidentified Sailors, undated	8	5
Postcards of U.S.S. Memphis, undated	8	6
Postcards of U.S.S. Tennessee, undated	8	7